



Press Release

Mato Vega Fire Information Inquiries: (719)-379-3783

June 20, 2006

Fort Garland, CO — Crews continued to burn out vegetation along Highway 160 to secure fire lines and keep the Mato Vega fire north of the highway. The highway remains closed to public travel. Fire weather conditions improved somewhat today allowing crews and aviation resources to remain engaged in fire suppression throughout the day.

Residents in the Wagon Creek Subdivision, Paradise Acres subdivision and Old La Veta Pass remain under mandatory evacuation orders. Residents in the Forbes Subdivision are under voluntary evacuations. There are approximately 280 homes affected by the evacuation orders.

Despite the extreme fire conditions crew did make some progress on the south end of the fire gaining 5% containment.

Tomorrow, crews will focus on structure protection and burn out operations near the Paradise Acres Subdivision. Firefighters will continue to construct and strengthen fire line along the south flank of the fire.

Fire Facts:

Size: 8960 acres

Personnel Assigned: 283

Aircraft: 2 Helicopters assigned and fixed wing air tankers are available

Structures Threatened: 280

Land Ownership: Private

Type 1 Crews: 3

Type 2 Crews: 4

Engines: 24

Water Tenders: 8

Dozers: 7

Editors Note: Media Tours will be from the Sierra Grande High School in Fort Garland, at 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM. All reporters will need Nomex, leather boots, helmets and leather gloves to go to fire line.